

# State bill could allow faculty to carry guns

KATIE STEVENSON  
News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

Missouri lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow universities to designate a full-time faculty as “campus protection officers” who could carry concealed weapons.

Under the bill, designated faculty members would be required to have a concealed carry permit and would train with the Department of Public Safety. The department would receive the list of staff members.

The bill was proposed to the House Higher Education Committee Feb. 7 by Republican Rep. Dean Dohrman. Dohrman said the proposal is an extension of similar legislation that was passed in 2014 allowing teachers in elementary schools and high schools to become certified as school protection officers.

“I proposed it as an added layer of protection on campuses. We proposed this bill for elementary and secondary (education) about four years ago to override the veto from Gov. Nixon at the time,” Dohrman said.

Dohrman said the new bill is very similar to the 2014 bill and would still require faculty or staff members to receive training.

“It provides faculty and staff who go for the required training to be able to arm themselves on campus in case of an emergency,” Dohrman said. “That, would of course, be a deadly event or become a deadly event and campuses are more open than elementary and secondary schools so I thought it was about time that we added an



COLIN CAIN | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Missouri lawmakers are in the process of passing a bill that would allow trained faculty and staff to conceal and carry on college campuses.

extra layer protection.”

Senior Quinn McCollom said he believes the bill could be beneficial to college campuses.

“I personally believe that allowing trained professors that are employed by a school to concealed carry would have a very big impact on the safety of their stu-

dents,” McCollom said.

Dohrman said if the bill passes there would be a lot of safeguards in place. In order for a faculty or staff member to qualify, they must be full-time employees and receive professional training.

McCollom said he believes the bill could drastically improve

response time as well as reduce the overall number of campus shootings.

“...It (the bill) would drastically reduce the response time to a lethal threat, it would act as a deterrent to those who are thinking about committing acts of violence since they would that the students

are no longer an easy target and it would also give those trapped in a room with teachers a fighting chance when it comes to defending themselves against violent individuals,” McCollom said.

SEE **GUNS** | A5

# Northwest accompanist finds her forte in performance

ABBEY HUGO  
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

Jiwon Choi, a staff accompanist at Northwest, was selected as a first prize winner in the piano category at the 2018 Golden Classical Music Awards International Music Competition and qualified as a finalist in the professional solo piano performance division of The American Prize.

As a Golden Classical Awards first prize winner, Choi will perform at the Winner’s Recital in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall March 14.

This will not be Choi’s first time performing at Carnegie Hall. She performed there following a similar competition three years ago.

“I am so excited to go back and get to experience that again,” Choi said. “Carnegie Hall is one of the greatest and most famous venues. I am really honored and blessed that I can experience what the greatest musicians (that have performed there) have experienced.”

Choi has chosen Liebeslied “Widmung, von Robert Schumann”, S. 566 by Franz Liszt as her performance piece for the Winner’s Recital.

Choi’s performance at Carnegie Hall will be part of a joint recital featuring all other winners that were invited to perform.

Musicians of all and ages and from all around the globe were invited to compete. Competitors were anywhere from six to 46 years of age, specializing in piano, string, wind or vocal.



MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN

Three years after performing in Carnegie Hall in New York City, Jiwon Choi will return for another performance March 14.

To apply, Choi submitted a recording of “Polonaise-Fantasie” Op. 61 by Frederic Chopin from her repertoire. It was reviewed by a jury of judges that later selected the winners.

The American Prize competition, on the other hand, consisted of three rounds. A recording was submitted for preliminaries, semifinals and finals.

Choi’s selections were “Po-

lonaise-Fantasie” by Frédéric Chopin, “Sonata No. 8” by Sergei Prokofiev and “Sonata Op.10 No. 3” by Ludwig Van Beethoven.

According to Choi, this contest was exceedingly more competitive than the Golden Classical Music Awards.

Choi was one of eight finalists in the professional division of the solo performance category.

“I made the list of finalists, but

I felt the winner was like ‘wow.’ I am honored that I got to compete against him,” Choi said.

After learning about Choi’s recent achievements, students such as freshman music performance major Tilena Conover expressed their dearest congratulations.

“She well earned it. I am very happy for her,” Conover said.

With the extraordinary success Choi has achieved, it is no surprise

she has been playing piano for most of her life. She began playing at six years old.

“My parents never pushed me to practice; it was never really what I had to do... It’s was always fun, it was always playing,” Choi said. “I am so thankful that my parents left it up to me, and never pushed me.”

When it came to picking a career, Choi never considered anything outside of music.

After getting her Bachelor of Music in piano performance at Dong-Ah University in South Korea, she moved to the United States at age 23, knowing very little English.

Choi studied at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and received a Master of Music in piano performance. She then went on to earn a Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Kansas.

While she was studying in the United States, Choi’s father was diagnosed with cancer.

“I heard that he was really sick and it was really heartbreaking,” Choi said. “I was still studying, so I couldn’t go back to Korea. But during summer break, I decided to go to him and give a recital just for him, because they had never really seen me perform in a recital... I thought it’d be really special to do this recital for him...”

SEE **CHOI** | A5

# Temple Grandin enlightens students in Ron Houston

MEKA WRIGHT  
Chief Reporter | @itstheredhair\_

The Ron Houston Performing Arts Center filled to capacity as a phenomenal, powerhouse of a woman overtook the stage. With her exuberant personality and multitude of expertise, she launched into an evening of lessons in education, animal science and psychology. Reputation preceding her, The Distinguished Lecture Series welcomed Dr. Temple Grandin in Feb. 15.

Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and expert in the welfare of farm animals and animal behavior,

has developed a career of extensive works in publications, awards and more, though her remarkability lies in her publicization of her insight and personal experience as a autistic woman.

Distinguished Lecture Series Committee chair and professor of English Kenton Wilcox has become a main component of a lecture series that strives to magnify disciplines, and to provide opportunities for Northwest to experience and expose themselves to astounding mentors, role models and icons.

“We find a diverse group of faculty members each year, representing different academic interest,” Wilcox said.

Last Fall, the Distinguished

Lecture Series began their preparations for a new lecturer for campus disciplines, or majors that have not received exposure to experts in these fields.

“This last Fall, we began sketching out...next year,” Wilcox said. “At that moment, the conversation is usually along the lines of ‘What are some disciplines that maybe haven’t had a speaker in a while and deserve to be heard about... (and) agriculture came up.”

While the agriculture department’s need for mentorship through lecture prompted a visit from Grandin, her appeal to the committee was focused on her abundance of knowledge in a variety of different fields.

“(Dr. Grandin) Stuck in our list, everytime we kept circling around about who we might like to see,” Wilcox said. “...she is tremendously popular...(and) she fit a lot of what we wanted to see in terms of a speaker. We want someone who has appeal through different disciplines... It is important for us to bring someone who has a point of view or experiences that aren’t already available on our campus.”

Grandin’s eagerness for communication and personable attitude was a driving force throughout her tour of the many lab schools on campus.

“She (Dr. Grandin) was willing to not just do the evening talk, she

was willing to come spend time with students...which is something that we always hope to get,” Wilcox said. “She has a very strong sense of mission, which is good in a speaker...it is easy to get ‘one more talk,’ ‘one more group,’ ‘one more media presence.’”

Grandin is not the typical lecturer, to say the least. Her robust, honest approach and viewpoint left her audience with a sense of awe as she explained her lessons in early education through the aspect of autism and other mental conditions that may hinder communication and the forming of relationships.

SEE **TEMPLE** | A5



# Missouri flunks national traffic safety report

CAMERON MONTEMAYOR  
Missourian Reporter | @CameronNWMSU

A coalition of health and safety groups released a new report evaluating the safety of Missouri’s traffic laws.

Missouri did not receive a favorable grade, according to Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (AHAS), a Washington D.C. group of health, safety companies and insurance agencies that encourage the enactment of federal and state laws.

An AHAS list had Missouri’s traffic safety laws tied for fourth worst in the nation.

The low review stems from Missouri’s law code only containing four of the 16 laws the AHAS considers essential.

A number of Missouri laws provide limited safety restrictions, such as texting bans for drivers 21 and under and secondary seat belt policies.

Other safety measures suggested by the AHAS focus on open container legislation, a law that hasn’t been enacted altogether in Missouri.

Missouri Rep. Allen Andrews’ district represents the Maryville and Nodaway County areas; he said Missouri is one of only six states without open container laws.

“I continue to have concerns over Missouri’s reluctance to pass open container measures,” Andrews said. “Data reveals states that have implemented open container laws are experiencing a reduction in fatal crashes.”

Despite large municipalities like Kansas City and St. Louis not having ordinances for open containers, Maryville is one of the few who have taken the initiative to pass one.



TAYLOR LEGRONE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety recently ranked Missouri as the fourth-worst state in the nation in terms of traffic safety.

Unlike Kansas City and St. Louis though, Maryville does not enforce a primary seatbelt law.

Missouri is one of only 15 states without a primary seat-belt law, that allows officers to stop drivers strictly for seatbelt violations.

Seatbelt data from the Missouri Federal Highway Administration shows 81 percent of Missouri residents use their seatbelt, a seemingly high figure, but almost seven percent lower than the national average.

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong thinks Missouri’s current secondary seat-belt laws are a hin-

drance to public safety.

“I think we need to look at that strongly...coupled with the fact that we have a lot of distracted driving now,” Strong said.

Despite his own deputies having certain state exemptions to use technology while driving, his policies advise them to pull over when doing so.

“Missouri is kind of behind on several things,” Strong said.

Laws relating to distracted driving, notably texting, were another critical component in Missouri’s AHAS report.

While Missouri has passed dis-

tracted driving laws banning texting for drivers ages 21 and under, lawmakers and local law enforcement officials argue the law is not broad enough.

“How ridiculous, do you suddenly get better at (not) being distracted when your 21?” Strong said. “I think it’s absurd.”

Andrews said data has proven texting laws need to be expanded to all drivers, regardless of age, and hinted legislation may be on the horizon.

“Distracted driving using a cell phone is linked to over 26 percent of all car accidents since 2014,”

Andrews said. “I believe we will see this law modified soon to include drivers of all ages.”

The Columbia Missourian reported transportation committees were being introduced to a bill that would put a complete ban on texting and driving.

If passed, Missouri would avoid being one of only three states not to have texting bans for all drivers.

A notable source of Missouri’s low traffic safety ratings were its age requirements for infants in rear-facing car seats.

The American Academy of Pediatrics maintains that all infants and toddlers need to sit in a rear-facing seat until they are at least two-years-old, or until an infant meets the manufacturer’s height and weight restrictions.

Missouri law says rear-facing seats are only required until an infant is a year old and 20 pounds, a large gap from safety standards set by AHAS and AAP.

“A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body,” Dr. Dennis Durbin said in an AAP report.

Despite reports indicating lagging safety laws, reports from AHAS are meant to highlight areas of need so the states can improve on those areas, which recent moves have shown is occurring.

With Missouri politicians and law enforcement officials like Strong and Andrews spearheading the adoption and enforcement of new laws and legislation, Missouri appears to be moving in the right direction.

## HERO travels to Omaha to represent Northwest

SAMANTHA COLLISON  
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

Helping Everyone Regardless of Orientation (HERO) attended the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) in Omaha, Nebraska, Feb. 16-18.

MBLGTACC is an annual conference that is hosted by a different Midwest college every year, this year by the University of Nebraska Omaha. The conference aims to connect, empower and educate LGBTQ college students, faculty and staff, according to the MBLGTACC website.

This year’s theme was, “All roads lead to intersectionality.”

“The mission of MBLGTACC 2018...is to educate queer and trans-Midwest college students to empower and celebrate their identities, while enabling them to resist oppression and develop resiliency against personal and societal injustices,” according to the MBLGTACC website.

Five students from HERO attended the conference. HERO President Trip Carlson attended MBLGTACC last year in Chicago and enjoyed it enough to return this year.

“It was a really great experience and we got a lot of useful information and connections out of it, so I thought it would be a good idea to attend again, especially since it was held so close,” Carlson said.

One of the draws for freshman Simon Hamilton and other students was keynote speaker Dylan Marron. Marron is a podcaster and video maker, writing and starring in videos on the channel Seriously.tv, voicing Carlos in the podcast “Welcome to the Night Vale” and producing his own podcast, “Conversations with People Who Hate Me.”

“My favorite thing about the weekend was getting to meet and talk to Dylan Marron and get pictures with him,” Hamilton said. “He was a big contributor to why I chose my major (radio) and is an amazing activist.”

There were four keynote speakers total, including Marron, Blair Imani, Cece McDonald and Joshua Allen.

“My favorite part of the conference personally was seeing Dylan Marron and CeCe McDonald,” Carlson said. “They both had incredible keynote speeches, and they’ve both been so influential to LGBTQ culture in media. I thought it was both hum-



JOSIAH MANNION | MBLGTACC18

Dylan Marron takes the stage as one of four keynote speakers at the 2018 MBLGTACC in Omaha last weekend. Marron is popular for his podcasts and videos advocating for the LGBTQ community.

bling and connecting.”

The conference also included performances by LGBT entertainers, including a drag show hosted by Jujubee, as well as panels and workshops.

“Spanning an hour, workshops cover lecture topics ranging from sex and sexuality to language and history,” according to the MBLGTACC website. “Lessons can be over topics focused on educating various groups, 101s like simple terminology or more involved options, like how to make your workplace/college more accessible or how to be an ally to transgender and non-binary friends and co-workers. Discussions ask for more involvement from the attendees and act as focus groups for different intersections.”

The only complaints about the

conference from HERO members were the increasing popularity of the conference has led to it being crowded and in need of larger venues. Hamilton and Carlson described the atmosphere as inclusive and comfortable: a safe place for LGBT college students to be themselves with no fear. Both said they would attend again.

The first MBLGTACC (then MBLGCC) was held at Iowa State University in Feb. 1993 and co-hosted by students from Iowa State and Drake University, according to the Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity website. The conference has changed names several times, but has been held every year since.

Next year’s conference will be held at Wichita State University.

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# Maryville appoints members to tourism committee



AARON DOBSON



GREG HANSEN

**ABBEY HUGO**  
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

The Maryville City Council re-appointed three members and appointed one new member to the Maryville Tourism Committee.

The reappointed representatives were Maryville Parks and Recreation Director Aaron Dobson, president of the Downtown Improvement Organization Matthew Gaardner and City Manager Greg McDanel.

“Everybody is working well together. Obviously, myself and the other two organizational appointments that were reappointed have been working well and representing our agencies,” McDanel said.

Greg Hansen, Northwest’s Assistant Vice President of Campus Recreation in Student Affairs, is the tourism committee’s newly appointed Northwest representative.

The committee consists of six members representing organizations with an invested interest in Maryville tourism and three members that are citizens at large in the community.

“It’s a good makeup and a good board to represent some very different groups in our community,” McDanel said.

Hansen filled the vacant position left for a Northwest representative when the committee was

created a year ago.

Since its formation, the committee had intended to feature a representative from Northwest but was awaiting the construction of the Hughes Fieldhouse and the appointment of an individual to oversee the complex.

“As assistant vice president of campus recreation, part of that responsibility is the administration and scheduling of Hughes Fieldhouse, which relates to the tourism committee,” Hansen said. “(I will be) working with the city of Maryville and the tourism committee and coordinating events in Hughes Fieldhouse.”

Hansen was appointed to his position at Northwest Jan. 2. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northwest, spent some time teaching and coaching in Northern Nodaway County, and said it feels like he’s returning home.

The tourism committee has high expectations for the Hughes Fieldhouse.

“In addition to supporting athletics and health and wellness programs, the Hughes Fieldhouse will serve as a beacon for notable conferences, trade shows and other community initiatives enhancing the local economy,” McDanel said in a statement on behalf of the city of Maryville.

Hansen expanded on the bene-

fits of the new complex.

“It will open up opportunities for Northwest Missouri State University, the city and the region to host events in the facility that we’ve never had before,” Hansen said. “It gets everything under one roof, and it allows for opportunities for those organizations to work together to bring in new tourism dollars to the city, Northwest and the area.”

Despite some winter days that prevented progress in construction, the fieldhouse is on track to open Aug. 1.

The fieldhouse has been a huge priority since the committee was instituted.

The Maryville Tourism Committee was formed in early 2017 after a five percent transient guest tax on hotel bills was approved by community vote Nov. 8, 2016.

The so-called “bed tax” added approximately four dollars to the cost of an overnight hotel stay at any hotel within Maryville city limits. When established, it was projected to yield \$215,000 in annual revenue.

The majority of that income was put towards funding the fieldhouse. Yearly, the remaining \$65,000 is entrusted to the tourism committee for tourism-related programs and campaigns designed to market and advertise Maryville as a tourism destination.



GREG MCDANEL



MATT GAARDNER

# Maryville Living Center receives state recognition

**SAMANTHA COLLISON**  
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

The Maryville Living Center was recognized for its low rate of antipsychotic use by the Missouri Local Area Network for Excellence (MoLANE).

The Living Center has been working toward this goal for more than a year. Maryville Living Center administrator Kim Bram said

it’s best to reduce the use of antipsychotic medication when possible because of its risks.

“Residents are at risk of falls and additional side effects when on antipsychotic medications,” Bram said. “The goal is to ensure each resident is free of unnecessary medication by finding out the cause of each behavior and addressing that need.”

Bram said the living center

will continue to make new goals involving community education, family support and continuing to decrease antipsychotic medication use.

“The ideal goal would be to manage dementia without the use of psychotropic medication,” Bram said.

The National Nursing Home Quality Improvement Campaign (NNHQIC) started Local Area

Networks for Excellence (LANEs) in all US states, territories and the District of Columbia.


According to the NNHQIC website their goal is to: “Bring together stakeholders within the state on a regular basis to: share their activities and ideas, identify long-term care quality improvement priorities for the state, coordinate activities and partner to advance improvement and promote

standard quality improvement methods and evidence-based practices.”

LANEs also work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes.

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# DeVos is hindering education



As a future educator, I learned how important it is to make a space where all of my students feel accepted and welcome. However, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has made this job even more difficult.

DeVos serves as the leader for all public schools in the country. As an education major, I am terrified to work in this field as long as she is in charge.

To use a “Harry Potter” euphemism, DeVos is the Dolores Umbridge to President Donald Trump’s Cornelius Fudge.

During the congressional approval sessions, DeVos clearly showed she knows nothing about the state of the United States education system. She has no experience in public education or with the federal student loan program which has helped pay for most of us to study at Northwest.

Normally, I do not care who the president picks to be in his cabinet, but the things DeVos has said and done in the last year made me question changing my major to something that would not require me to deal with this evil human being.

DeVos has no idea what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) is, this act provides all students with the access to a free and public education. Along with having no experience with IDEA, she has no general knowledge of the public-school system. She grew up in the private school system and never worked in the field of education, which means she has no insight into what students in the average public school need to succeed.

Most recently, DeVos and the Department of Education decided they will no longer investigate complaints by those who identify as transgender who have trouble with their schools’ bathrooms.

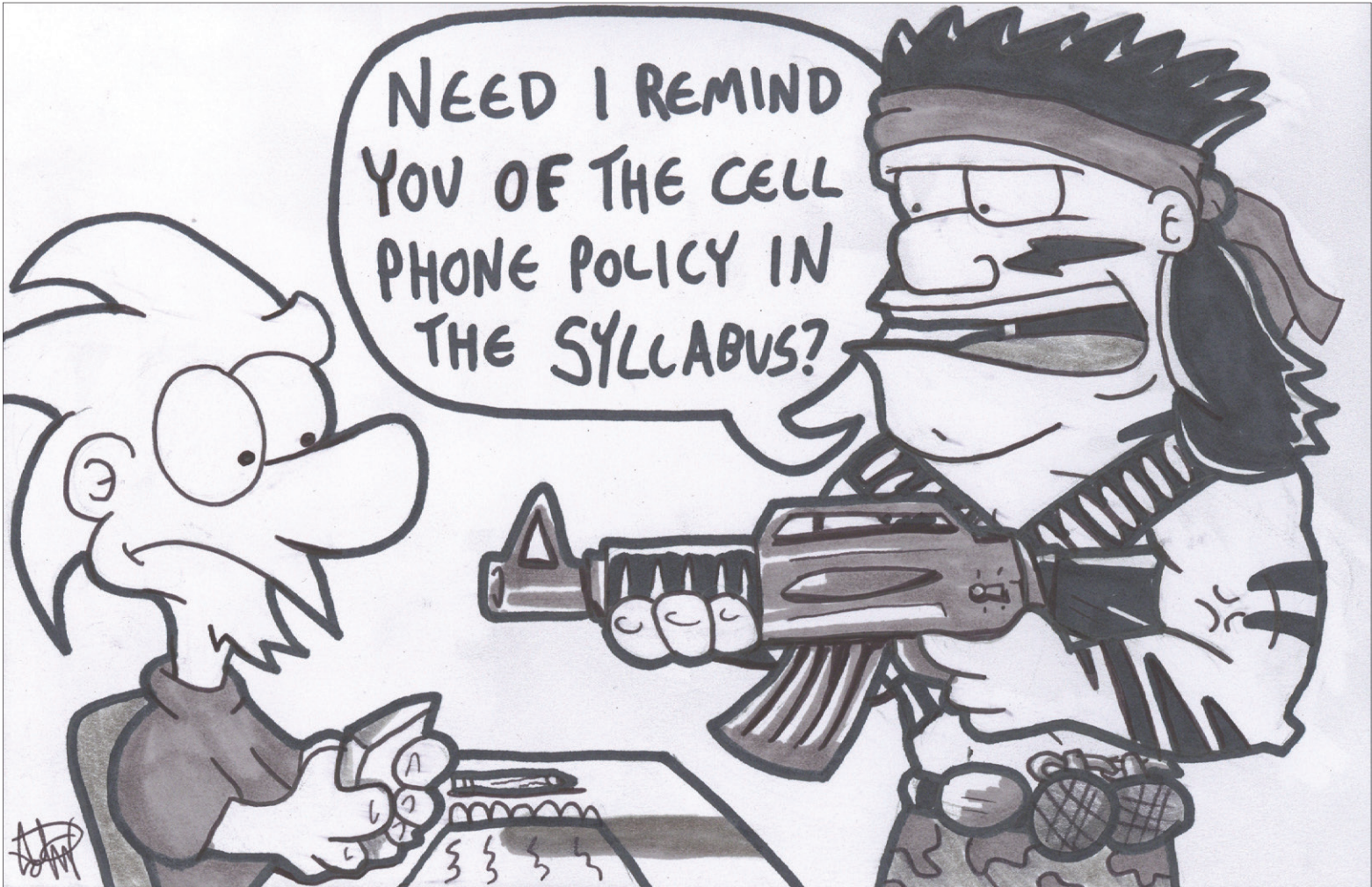
This decision irritates me on so many levels because it means some of my future students will be unable to use bathrooms that correspond to their identity. It is so important as educators to allow our students to grow as human beings, as well as prepare them for the world around them when they leave our classrooms.

As one of my education professors, Dr. Everett Singleton would say, the biases and stereotypes we present in our classrooms can make the ultimate difference in how our students learn. This decision by the Department of Education just reinforces the biases held against those who identify as transgender and prevents them from fully expressing their identities.

This decision is going to allow a system of inequity and oppression to continue, especially in smaller rural communities where certain things are not always accepted right away. When we allow our students to fully express themselves, they are more likely to want to participate in the classroom and be actively involved in their assignments.

This decision will cause students to not want to go to school and learn before entering the real world. The United States is already not one of the best countries in the world compared to others in education. This decision will allow students to slip further and further away from wanting to learn.

DeVos made the wrong decision and we are going to be dealing with this decision for years to come.



COLIN VAUGHAN

## OUR VIEW:

# Society is to blame for mass shootings, gun problems

It has come into immediate attention, as things usually do when a hot-button issue resurfaces and people suddenly realize its importance, that Americans everywhere are in disagreement about practically everything.

The trend as of late is gun control, and man-oh-man is it reigniting the passions of the ever-so-often opinionated individual. Other popular issues of this nature include places where people can live, who gets the biggest cut of U.S. currency and which sedatives we’re allowed to put in our bodies to forget about the former issues.

A new bill is running through the Missouri legislature now that would allow school districts to designate faculty to carry concealed weapons with them, in that they would have a concealed carry permit and train with the Department of Public Safety.

To put it plainly, we live in an overly-excited, overstimulated and overtly-expecting society. A fine example of this would be get-

ting worked up about a subpar performance of the national anthem, while watching it on a flat screen TV, knocking back another cold Mountain Dew. At the very least, it is important to be aware of yourself before tackling any big issues about society.

We could spew the obvious diatribe, “Don’t fight fire with fire,” and even the self-righteous anthem of gun-toters everywhere, “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people,” but we’d be missing the main point. We’d be serving abstract concepts in a literal world. We would not be doing the issue the justice it deserves.

The fact of the matter is school shootings are becoming ever-so-increasingly present, and more importantly, innocents are being killed. This is an issue. This is a cause for concern. This needs to be addressed with a certain clarity of mind.

Let us imagine for a brief second a world in which teachers have the capacity to carry concealed weap-

ons, for the due purpose of protecting their students. Let’s imagine a school shooter decides they want to arm themselves to the gills with weapons and explosives to injure the lives of those they attend school with.

Now pause, imagine this same world again. Imagine its news populated with hate, suffering and catastrophe. Imagine the inhabitants of this world upset and disdainful for how things are. Finally now, imagine an individual terribly sick of the world around him with a thought that he had nothing to lose.

Problems society faces don’t magically spring out of nowhere, they happen for a reason and most times in ways that have been unknowingly piling up. The problem here isn’t guns or mental health. It is the society that has forgotten to check up on itself. School shootings aren’t the problem; they are but a symptom.

The problem here is our current society.

# Prayers, thoughts do not save lives



By the time this column is printed and published, the shooting that took place in Parkland, Florida, will be old news. Based off the rate of school shootings in America, there will probably be another one between when I write this and when it’s published.

Fifteen students and two faculty members woke up last Wednesday, Feb. 14, and headed off for a routine day of learning at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, never to return home. 17 Americans were gunned down in a senseless act of violence that could have been prevented.

Columbine should’ve been the wakeup call. It wasn’t. Virginia Tech should’ve been the wakeup call. It wasn’t. Sandy Hook should’ve been the last straw, but here we are.

Fact: As of Feb. 16, there have been 18 school shootings in the United States since Jan. 1 of this year. In the interest of full disclosure,

only seven of those shootings were intentional and took place during normal school hours, according to the Washington Post. Seven shootings on school grounds in a month-and-a-half is still far too many.

In the aftermath of the Parkland shooting, several noteworthy politicians tweeted support out to the victims and their families. President Donald Trump tweeted, “My prayers and condolences to the families of the terrible Florida shooting. No child, teacher or anyone else should ever feel unsafe in an American school.”

Fact: Thoughts and prayers aren’t fixing this. Trump and the rest of the GOP can pray all they want, but it isn’t going to change the fact that the key to solving America’s mass shooting crisis is gun control. Prayers and condolences from politicians mean absolutely nothing if they fail to use their power as elected officials to help ensure the safety of the American people.

Many Republicans and Fox News commentators were quick to pull the ‘mental health card’ in wake of Wednesday’s attack.

“In a free society, you can’t stop bad people who are intent on killing,” political pundit Joe Walsh

tweeted. “What you can do is protect yourself. And those around you. With a gun. Protect our children. Put armed adults in our schools.”

If you have a similar mindset as Walsh, please understand this: the United States is the only country on Earth where this happens. The self-proclaimed “Greatest Country in the World” does not lead the pack in education, health or economic prosperity. We don’t even lead the Winter Olympics’ medal count.

The United States does lead the world in mass shootings. And it’s not close. So before you go on a tirade and say that this is not a gun control issue, but a mental health issue, ask yourself, “Is the United States the only country on the planet whose citizens suffer from mental health issues?” The answer is no. But we are the only developed country on Earth where an 18-year-old kid can buy an AR-15 with no questions asked. The status quo is unacceptable.

This problem is fixable. No other country on Earth allows this to happen. In the coming weeks, there will be protests and rallies, and there will be bills introduced to congress regarding gun control. They will not pass, and that’s because the NRA has a bigger say in

our government than we do.

But next time - and there will be a next time - remember who’s fault it is. This isn’t a mental health problem. We don’t need to arm our teachers. We don’t need security guards in every school in America.

This epidemic of mass slaughter taking place in America is not a product of coincidence, it is not because of mental health issues, not because of bullying, violent movies or video games. Mass shootings in America are a direct product of our own inaction.

We need a congressional body with a more vested interest in the safety of the American people than their own political agenda or reelection campaign. We need politicians that will accept responsibility for their lack of action and make change. I’m not saying all guns need to be banned - to do so would be absurd - but as a nation, we need to take a long look at ourselves and ask why we aren’t doing more to protect our children.

We need change. How many more innocent kids have to die at school before American lawmakers give a shit? All the thoughts and prayers in the world aren’t going to change anything. God isn’t fixing this, we’re going to have to do it ourselves.





MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN  
National leader and advocate for autistic communities and humane livestock handling, Dr. Temple Grandin, visited Northwest for a sold out lecture Thursday, Feb. 15. Before ending the night, Grandin signed autographs for fans as they crowded around her for photos.

**TEMPLE**  
CONTINUED FROM A1  
“I am seeing too many kids labeled autistic...ADHD...and I’m worried about them getting screened out of the educational system,” Grandin said during her lecture. “We need these kinds of unique minds.”  
Her distinguishing personality

resonated with senior special education major Suzie Lottie, who first heard of Grandin after watching her biopic movie, “Temple Grandin.”  
“I watched her (Dr. Grandin) movie a couple years ago, and I’ve been obsessed with her ever since,” Lottie said. “So when they said I could get extra credit for going, I was going anyway.”  
Lottie’s familiarity with Gran-

din drew her interest in the lecture, though expectations were exceeded as she listened to the icon present immense comprehensions of the different types of minds.  
“Talking about really getting to know each student and their individualities...and working with them hands-on, that is when things become permanent in someone’s mind,” Lottie said. “And (after

watching her movie) I do a lot of hands-on things with my students. I ask them what they want to do and incorporate that into my lessons.”  
Lottie, who is student teaching next semester, will take Grandin tutoring through her journey. Learning and experiencing a woman of such profound understanding and awareness of the many types of minds will stick with many stu-

dents who are just developing their own awarenesses, amongst their many disciplines.  
Grandin’s genius will reverberate through fellow Bearcats as well as through the surround communities as her words opened the doors of new ways of thinking and reconstructed the expectations of others, ourselves and the world.

# Blotters for the week of Feb. 22

**Northwest Missouri State University Police Department**  
**Feb. 8**  
There was a closed investigation for relationship violence at Hudson Hall.  
**Feb. 10**  
There is an open investigation for harassment motivated by race discrimination at Hudson Hall.  
A summons was issued to Abigail Cook, 19, for possession of marijuana at Millikan Hall.

**Feb. 11**  
A summons was issued to Matthew Slomski, 19, for minor in possession, resisting arrest by flight and possession of a fake ID at Dietrich Hall.  
**Feb. 12**  
There is an open investigation for property damage at South Complex.  
**Feb. 14**  
A summons was issued to Damon Jenkins, 19, for driving while impaired at College Park Drive.

There was a closed investigation for hazing at 940 College Ave.  
**Feb. 16**  
There was a closed investigation for relationship violence at Hudson-Perrin Hall.  
There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Dietrich Hall.  
**Feb. 19**  
There was a closed investigation for relationship violence at 1236 Fox Road.

**GUNS**  
CONTINUED FROM A1  
Dohrman said he believes this bill could be a step in the right direction to help combat America’s school shooting epidemic.  
“I hope from this bill the various board of governors around the state will start having more serious discussions,” Dohrman said. “Two year and four-year colleges are constantly thinking about the safety of (the) student body and I think we need to have a serious discussion about what will work on the campus and that can be something that we can work out logistically.”  
McCollom said the bill would

help reduce the number of casualties because there would be immediate action instead of having to wait for law enforcement.  
“Waiting for the police often leads to more fatalities that could have been prevented if the threat was confronted instantly by an armed individual,” McCollom said. “Concealed carry on campus for all individuals that have been obtained through the state would be more ideal but I think this bill would be a step in the right direction as it relates to protecting students from similar style attacks.”  
If the bill passes without issues it would go into effect Aug. 28 in time for the 2019-2020 school year.

**CHOI**  
CONTINUED FROM A1  
“(At the recital,) I think there were 200 people around. They all knew the story, so they all were crying and I was crying. It was so special. And at the end of the recital, as an encore, I played my dad’s favorite traditional Korean tune...”  
When she was there, her father was extremely weak but now he has fully recovered, something Choi chooses to attribute, at least in part, to her recital and the power of music. No matter the rewards she achieves or grand places she performs, that remains Choi’s favorite memory of playing the piano.  
Choi has been a staff accompanist at Northwest since 2016. In that position, she accompanies the three choirs, collaborates with faculty and offers piano lessons when necessary.  
Conover emphasized how dedicated Choi is to helping students improve.  
“If a student has questions about a piano piece or the accompaniment in a song she answers with intensity and willingly to the students,” Conover said.  
Choi has greatly enjoyed her time at Northwest and working alongside students.  
“I love to see the students make progress and to make music together. I like feeling that I am helping them make better music,” Choi said. “Not only that, but I think I love interacting with them and their energy. They’re all really supportive and I feel really loved.”  
Choi’s talent and abilities wow students and faculty alike.  
“As an accompanist, she is



MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN  
Choi is a staff accompanist at Northwest and has had the position since 2016.

amazing. Dr. Town and Dr. Lanier praise her endlessly. We try to give her challenging pieces to play, but she plays through them like the professional she is...” Conover

said. “I personally am in awe of Dr. Choi because watching her play classical and hearing her is so inspiring. As a musician too, I look up to her.”

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HOROSCOPES



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, you may need to muscle your way through some projects, especially if your energy levels wane. Put your nose to the grindstone and work your way through things.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, you are not one for letting obstacles get in your way. In fact, you find a way to go over or under any roadblocks. This makes you an asset to any team.

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, if you have been forgetful about keeping tabs on your finances, you may be in for a surprise. Make an effort to more closely monitor your financial situation.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Don't be so quick to write off someone you thought was out of your life, Cancer. This person may play an integral role in your life this week.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
You might need to channel some newfound excitement, Leo. Perhaps there is a special project brewing or a party on the horizon. Keep up the good cheer.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, everyone makes mistakes, and those who move forward learn from their past errors. If you stumble, dust yourself off and get back into the game this week.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Don't consistently doubt yourself, Libra. Be confident that you can make decisions that will ensure your family's success and happiness for years to come.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Juggling too many items at once often ends with one of the balls dropping, Scorpio. Call on your support network to lend a helping hand when the juggling act gets too difficult.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Friends may flock to you and your jovial attitude this week, Sagittarius. Beat the winter blues by hosting a party, and it can be a win for all involved.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Loosen up the reins on something you have been holding onto tightly. This may mean giving a child a little more freedom to explore or involving others in a work assignment.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, it's time to put some new ideas in motion. Channel your energy into projects that will showcase your talents and vision for the future.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, creative endeavors may need to be shelved for a little while as you focus on practical tasks. It won't be long before you can return to them.

Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

PETS OF THE WEEK

### LittleCat & MiniCat

Human: Katelyn Stevenson

**LittleCat**  
**Age:** 9  
**Weight:** Enough to Murder You  
**Fluff Factor:** 6/10  
**Murder Factor:** 100/10  
**Likes:**  
Long Naps  
Thinking About Murder  
Tolerating Her Mom and Sister  
**Dislikes:**  
The Entire Human Race  
Belly Rubs  
Being Snuggled Against Her Will  
**Dream Job:**  
Overlord of Humanity

**MiniCat**  
**Age:** 5 months  
**Weight:** 5 lbs  
**Fluff Factor:** 10/10  
**Likes:**  
Late Night Snuggles  
Chasing Her Tail  
Biting EVERYTHING  
**Dislikes:**  
Sweaters  
Being Told What To Do  
Her Sister Getting More Attention Than Her  
**Dream Job:**  
Professional Shredder

**WE LOVE YOUR PETS!**  
Submit picture and bio of your animal friends to 6521010@nwmissouri.edu

CROSSWORD

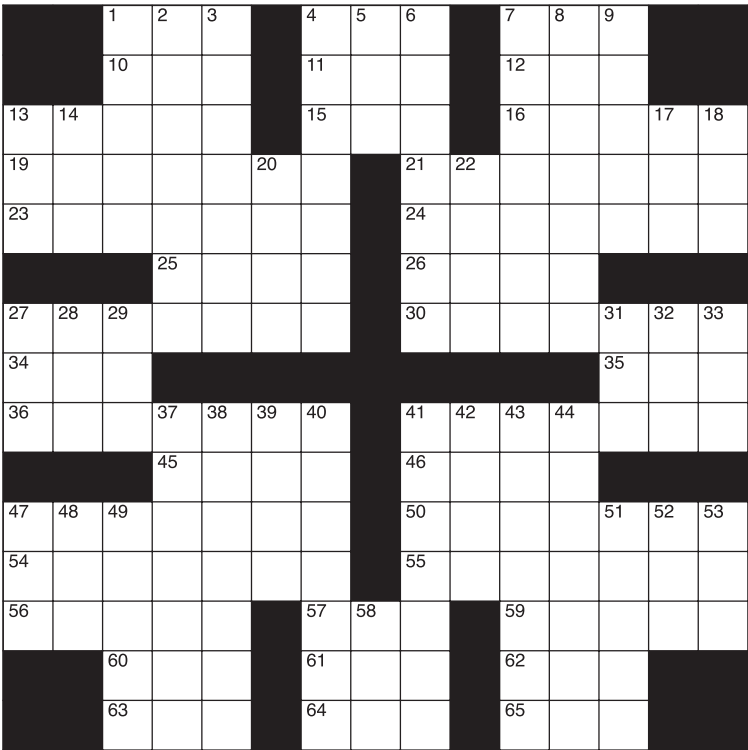
By MetroCreative

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

8	9	2	7	4	5	6	1	3
6	4	3	9	2	1	8	5	7
5	1	7	6	8	3	2	9	4
2	3	5	4	9	7	1	6	8
1	6	8	5	3	2	4	7	9
4	7	9	1	6	8	3	2	5
7	2	4	8	5	6	9	3	1
9	5	6	3	1	4	7	8	2
3	8	1	2	7	9	5	4	6

T	S	A	R		P	E	B	B	L	Y	
A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
P	A	N	D	O	R	A		U	N	K	I
M	E	S	A	S				D	E	C	A
					M	E	D				
									A	M	A
						C	O	M	I	C	
					E	U	H	A	A	S	
						C	T	N		N	B
H	A	N			M	E	A	D		A	H
E	X	A	M			S	E	R	A	L	
L	I	S	U						B	I	G
M	O	U	S	E	R				S	H	A
	M	A	C	R	O	N			A	T	E
									I	N	T
									S	C	E

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. \_\_ fi (slang)
  - 4. Carolina Panthers' Newton
  - 7. Documented organizational practice
  - 10. A way to change color
  - 11. Boxing legend
  - 12. Football coach Parseghian
  - 13. Rewards (archaic)
  - 15. Colbert's network
  - 16. Palm trees
  - 19. Capital of N. Carolina
  - 21. LA ballplayers
  - 23. Does not sit
  - 24. A way to intensify
  - 25. Penny
  - 26. Elements' basic unit
  - 27. Muscular weakness (pl.)
  - 30. Makes sense
  - 34. Helps little firms
  - 35. Go quickly
  - 36. Found at the end of books
  - 41. A way of carving
  - 45. The back of one's neck
  - 46. Israeli dance
  - 47. They help golfers
  - 50. Western landmass
  - 54. Evokes
  - 55. A Big Easy hoopster
  - 56. Small valleys
  - 57. Water in the solid state
  - 59. Acquired brain injury
  - behavior science (abbr.)
  - 60. Don't let this get too big
  - 61. Motor is one type
  - 62. Negative
  - 63. A hiding place
  - 64. Negative
  - 65. Excavated



- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Upright stone
  - 2. Beat
  - 3. Intestines (informal)
  - 4. Distinguishing marks
  - 5. Clerical vestment
  - 6. Give cards incorrectly
  - 7. Underground construction worker
  - 8. Japanese art form
  - 9. Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
  - 13. Wife
  - 14. Consume
  - 17. Curve
  - 18. Midway between south and southeast
  - 20. Unit of heredity
  - 22. Upon
  - 27. Pressure unit
  - 28. Australian TV station
  - 29. Cool!
  - 31. A person's guardian spirit
  - 32. French river
  - 33. Body part
  - 37. Gratify
  - 38. Watertight chamber
  - 39. Dueling sword
  - 40. Term
  - 41. Having an attractive shape
  - 42. Togo capital
  - 43. Island nation
  - 44. Arctic deer with large antlers
  - 47. Dishonorable man
  - 48. Equal to 100 sq. meters
  - 49. Administered
  - 51. Cake topping
  - 52. Car for hire
  - 53. Autonomic nervous system
  - 58. Intelligence organization

SUDOKU

	5					3	9	
	8							
		3	8	6		7	5	
				3	2	8		5
				8			6	
		7						
	4	9	6				3	
1				5				
				9		2		

### MARYVILLE WEATHER FORECAST

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THURS

31° 24°

FRI

36° 27°

SAT

39° 20°

SUN

42° 23°

MON

44° 23°

TUES

55° 36°





ISAIAH SWANN | NW MISSOURIAN  
Despite not being recognized as an official campus organization, EmpowHer has still gained a strong following of women who are willing to explore their faith while helping out the Maryville community.

## A LEAP OF FAITH

### Women have their spirits lifted through EmpowHer

**MICHAEL CRIPE**  
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

EmpowHer, one of the latest student-started campus ministries, is made up entirely of female students and took more than just two individuals and word of mouth to bring to life.

For almost one year, EmpowHer has been giving women on campus a place to feel loved and accepted, while also putting their passions into practice. Every Monday night at 8 p.m., 10 to 15 women gather at EmpowHer to share and explore their love for Christ.

The all-women campus min-

istry off,” Reeter said. “The name of the ministry is ‘EmpowHer’ with the theme verse being Esther 4:14, ‘Perhaps you have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this.’”

Reeter says the verse manages to stay constantly relatable, while also remaining a phrase of inspiration and empowerment for those who may be down. Overthinking can plague the mind, especially today. Reeter and Lewis want this phrase and EmpowHer to give hope to those who may be going through a rough patch.

Reeter added that these moments of despair are often defining

Her, the girls realized their project could not exist as an official campus organization due to University requirements. If EmpowHer was going to be an official entity, they would have to recognize themselves as a sorority, an idea neither of the seniors agreed with in the context of their mission.

A lack of official title and placement was not necessary to change lives though, so the pair continued on, knowing their mission to provide the women of Northwest a regular Bible study was more than enough to sustain a dream.

Lewis says it took a lot of consideration before launching their project.

“Jozie and I thought and prayed a lot about this,” Lewis said. “We had to start from scratch, and find study materials, as well as decide what we wanted to base our vision off of. We knew we wanted to be supportive and welcoming of all girls, and really show them Christ’s love and friendship.”

Risking a less busy schedule was the least of their worries, as relationships and potential friendships were at risk too.

“We received a little bit of negative feedback in the beginning, just because we were doing something different that really hadn’t been done before,” Lewis said. “We were stepping out of our comfort zones and risking relationships.”

Since the organization started, a more active and regular group attending Monday nights has allowed for more involved community work. EmpowHer convened and decided to serve Maryville as a team. This means donating, doing community service and spreading the word about upcoming community events.

One of the upcoming events is a concert called AFTERDARK. The free concert takes place March 6, in Bearcat arena, with the focus phrase of ‘Is Jesus relevant today?’

One thing Reeter and Lewis are trying to do is organize the first annual Northwest Easter dinner.

“Our vision for this is to get all the campus ministries together, as well as churches in the communi-

ty, and serve individuals and families an Easter meal that do not have a place to go,” Reeter said. “At this dinner, the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection will be addressed.”

Reeter reflected on the reasons she was driven to come to Northwest in the first place. For her, it is not just about the present, but it is about the future too. The impact she and Lewis are making is the ultimate goal of EmpowHer.

“This organization is not mine or Morgan’s and it will never be ours. It is God’s,” Reeter said. “He is just using us to influence a group of women, who will then take what they have learned to influence more women.”

Lewis and Reeter are both seniors, and as a result have limited time before EmpowHer is left in the hands of another group of leaders.

“I hope and pray that EmpowHer does not end when Morgan and I graduate,” Reeter said. “I pray that some of the younger women that are in the group will see the same need we saw when we started the ministry and want to continue it.”

Reeter says that ‘Northwest needs Jesus just as much as the rest of the world.’ It is a simple idea, but an idea backed up by the verse and ideals EmpowHer was built



ISAIAH SWANN | NW MISSOURIAN  
Senior Jozie Reeter gives the girls of EmpowHer a rundown of the night during bible study Monday evening at her home.

istry’s roots are as deep as most similar groups on school grounds, and even encourages these other groups to grow. Its purpose is to spread gospel and meet with others to share a love of God.

These women come together every week, not specifically to spread a new or different message, but to offer another outlet. However, a focus on bringing women together is not the only thing setting them apart.

Senior Jozie Reeter, EmpowHer co-founder, says she and the other EmpowHer co-founder, senior Morgan Lewis, came together as best friends with an idea, and left as leaders.

“April 6, 2017, Morgan and I sat in Starbucks and wrote our ideas down on paper; everything from a name of the organization, to the vision, to our goals and to the verse we wanted to base the

and can help lead the way by illuminating God’s plan.

“Making sure that women know they were created specifically for this time and God has a plan for them that surpasses their own thoughts and desires is what motivates me to share God’s promises with women,” Reeter said.

Originally from Chillicothe, Reeter says she didn’t plan on even coming to Northwest in the first place, but guidance from a tour guide directed her to a path leading to eventual Bearcat pride. She says God was calling her to Northwest and that this was ‘something she was supposed to do.’ After the visit, Reeter returned home, telling her mother that she would leave her mark on this campus.

“I was not sure how, but I knew God was going to use me in ways I could not do on my own,” Reeter said.

When starting up Empow-



SUBMITTED  
Relationships between members of the Women’s Ministry go far beyond spending time together during bible study. Members Payton McGee, Rileigh Spahn and Jozie Reeter are close friends that participate in other activities together, including attending football games.

on. EmpowHer and what Lewis and Reeter have done is, if nothing else, an example all should take when hesitant to start something of their own. All it takes is a leap of faith.

For further coverage of the EmpowHer group check out *Amazing Things* on KNWT.



# Grocery Bingo on the horizon

SARAH VON SEGGERN

A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

It's everyone's favorite time of the semester again full of disappointment, teachers cracking down and preparing for midterms. In the midst of all this despair, students can at least look forward to one thing: free groceries.

This semester's grocery bingo will be held in the ballroom of the J.W. Jones Student Union at 7-9 p.m. Feb. 22 and is hosted by the Student Activities Council (SAC).

Freshman elementary education major and SAC director of special events Erin Fleharty is in charge of running grocery bingo. She said there are more than 300 students that participate, making it the special events committee's most attended event.

"It is one of our longest events that we have done in SAC," Fleharty said. "This event is so successful because students are able to engage with one another along with (getting) free groceries, and who doesn't like free groceries?"

Winning groceries is like a dream for every student, but with grocery bingo, it has become a reality. Even though chances of winning are slim, it's always that small possibility the perfect combination of letters and numbers will be called that keep students playing.

Freshman biomedical science major Deja Thomas said since everyone is there to win people should expect a lot of competition.

For those who have never gone to grocery bingo, it is not for the weak of will. Students play to win and sometimes that takes multiple



SUBMITTED | NW MISSOURIAN

Grocery Bingo is one of the biggest events SAC holds, drawing in hundreds of students each semester.

times hearing the speaker say, "Alright, clear your boards everyone."

Every excited "bingo" from other students only creates more tension for those still playing. The more bingo's there are, the less amount of food there is to pick from and closer it is for the boards to be cleared for possibly the last time.

Despite the competitive nature students find themselves in, the layout of grocery bingo is actually

made to give everybody a chance at winning.

After someone wins once, their boards are taken to decrease the amount of people playing so others get a chance at winning. Also, the winners are limited to a certain amount of food they can take from different categories placed within a SAC bag.

"The way it's set up is pretty great in my opinion," Thomas said. "I like how it gives everyone

a fair chance to win."

Even with the free food and the competition, there are many more reasons to attend grocery bingo. It can be a great way to meet new people and even strengthen bonds. By going out with roommates, people can increase their chance of winning if everybody plays for everybody, rather than just themselves.

Also, the game aspect of grocery bingo really allows students

to feel like they're winning and earning the groceries.

"...Free of anything is great," Thomas said. "It's nice to play for your winnings instead of hand-outs. (It) makes people feel like they've accomplished something."

With such a large and unique event, it's no wonder grocery bingo has become such a tradition every semester. Students and free food will forever be a guaranteed crowd-pleaser.

## SATIRE:

# Escaped prisoner missing in outer space

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS

Satirist | @AnthonyProcRoss

Ryan O'Henry, 22, was declared missing yesterday morning after officials at Space Camp™ could not find him anywhere on their premises.

O'Henry was convicted last year on three counts of theft after stealing minivans full of Girl Scout Cookies. Space Camp™ Space Warden, Atlas Thunderbolt, said he saw him up to the moon personally as the first shipment of prisoners was sent into orbit.

"We do six counts of the prisoners each day, and you best believe I was the first person to notice that the prisoner was missing," Thunderbolt said.

Thunderbolt said Space Camp™ was the first to pioneer the Behavioral Adjustment & Rehabilitation System (BARS), reportedly geared to ease the psychological burden of being in a weightless environment.

The process involves taking prisoners to a paneled viewing port and letting their situation sink in. They are then told to meditate for the span of 45 minutes, floating in their cell.

"My favorite part about this place is that it's too expensive to bring them back, and with BARS in place why would they even want to?" Thunderbolt said.

With limited space and places to hide, the general public is in a state of perpetual shock about this sudden disappearance. Astronaut,

Vic Hume, is less convinced.

"You'd think they thought the sky was falling," Hume said. "The guards must've been pretty spaced out to let something this obvious eclipse them."

Satellites attempted to locate any unfamiliar objects, in hopes of finding a body, around the facility. However, the mass amounts of space debris, mainly trash and feces, inhibited any locating functionalities the satellite had at its disposal. Space Camp™ had no comment about the debris.

According to Thunderbolt, the entire facility has been stripped, scrubbed, and dubbed empty of its missing occupant.

"We've been having face-to-face interviews with the inmates to get some much needed intel, but so

far, everyone's coming to us starry-eyed," Thunderbolt said.

Research reports from Space Camp™'s finest researchers have come back with statistics of retention rates reaching 99.99999 percent. This is a new high for prisons located beyond earth's atmosphere, statistically speaking. Research also bolsters a 97 percent satisfaction rate among prisoners after eating Freeze Dried Ice Cream.

Space Camp™ is home to some of the most dastardly convicts the United States has to offer. The complex is situated on the darkside of the moon. Its creation would have been impossible without investors like Mon O'poly, Big Rich and Dick Banks.

## THE STROLLER:

# Your Bearcat wants you to stick up for yourself

"I just want a rich husband, so I don't have to do anything," said the girl next to me in class. Our professor told us to state our name, where we are from, and what we wanted to do in life. Instead of the girl next to me saying what career she wanted, she stated how good of a housewife she will be.

I often think my opinion may be wrong, and I think to myself, I shouldn't say anything, but instead I blurt out, "Wait what?"

Why? How? When did you get this mindset? Women have given up everything so they could not be just another housewife, yet that is still the height of your aspirations? Instead of being a woman like Susan B. Anthony or Betty Friedan, you want to be a woman like Phyllis Schlafly. The "Yes Women" as I like to call them. Women like this should not exist because it paints the "All Women are Housewives" stereotype in this male-dominant world.

Maybe it is just me, but I feel like the housewife role is boring. They're simply cooking and cleaning.

Women are more than just house cleaners and nannies. They can and should be providers too. Women need to stand for something because men can't do everything. It will make them feel like they have power over us. "I'm the one paying the bills." Typical guy line. However, he would have no room to say that if you too had a job.

Not being a housewife may mean more to me because I am a minority, and I've heard about how hard women who were minorities had to fight for their rights.

I wanted to ask the girl who sits next to me in class, "Why are you in college, pursuing a degree, if all you want to be is a housewife?" But I think the laughs from my fellow classmates made her feel flustered, so I didn't say anything.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

# Gaming Club sells baked goods

JAMES CHRISTENSEN

A&E Reporter | @jameschris1701

The Northwest Gaming Club started working hard to complete its newest objective: a nerd-themed bake sale.

The club started the bake sale as a way to raise money for future events. This includes the Nerdstock Convention, taking place later this semester.

This bake sale served a number of delicious treats, including heart shaped cookies for Valentine's Day and vegan cupcakes. All of the treats were made by the club members, and sold at an info table in the J. W. Jones Student Union. This bake sale helped the Northwest Gaming Club raise money for Nerdstock. The money from this bake sale is also going to help fund various activities during the remainder of the spring semester.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Michael Hobbs, department chair of Language, Literature and Writing, purchases baked goods from Destini Wright to help support the Gaming Club's Nerd Bake Sale Thursday, Feb. 15.

Siena Fleck, a junior middle school language arts major, serves as the president of the Gaming Club, and wants everyone to know what the Northwest Gaming Club is.

"Northwest Gaming Club is an organization based on a wide range of different forms of gaming," Fleck said. "We provide a safe place for everyone, student and non-student, to come and play video games, board games, card games and any sort of major role-playing game, such as Dungeons and Dragons. We are open to all sorts of gaming, and we welcome

anything any member wishes to bring to the club and play."

The Northwest Gaming Club is one of the many recognized organizations on this campus, but it does not always get the spotlight it is due. This organization serves as a space for people to gather and play some of their favorite games, while making connections with other students from the Northwest community.

Fleck wants to encourage everyone to come out to their upcoming Nerdstock Convention.

"We will be holding our annual Nerdstock Convention on

the dates of April 13, 14 and 15," Fleck said. "We will be working close with Cards Against Humanity Society, Humans Vs. Zombies, and Northwest Missouri State University Anime Club at this convention."

Fleck explained that Nerdstock will have a wide variety of activities open to students over the three day convention in April.

"We will have different panels, games, competitions, prizes and much, much more," Fleck said.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURIANS.COM**



# Division II best tests softball early

**TUCKER QUINN**  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Northwest softball earned a well-deserved split with the University of Minnesota-Duluth (6-2) Saturday to cap off a promising stretch of competition.

In game one, the Bearcats scored two runs in the third and three runs in the fifth on 10 hits, while racking up four errors in a 5-3 opening win.

Sophomore infielder, Kaitlyn Weis, led the team in at-bats with a pair of home runs and finished with four RBIs and two runs scored.

Coach Ryan Anderson made the decision to start senior pitcher Taylor Blackford, and it ended up paying off. She threw seven complete innings for the win, and only allowed one earned run on eight hits. She also struck out three and walked one.

In a high scoring second game between the two teams, Minnesota-Duluth edged out the Bearcats with a final score of 11-9.

Northwest scored four runs in the first, four runs in the fourth and one run in the seventh. While the lady Bulldogs scored two runs in the first, one run in the second, three runs in the fourth and five runs in the sixth.

The lady Bearcats met their match in a tough double header against the defending national champion, Minnesota State (4-0),



Northwest sophomore infielder Karli Allen has had seven hits, five RBIs and is hitting .333 so far this season.

Sunday.

Coming into the game, the Bearcats put senior pitcher and Bearcat softball captain Taylor Blackford back on the mound to pitch against some of the highest-powered bats in all of Division II softball.

But, without fail, the lady Mavericks scored 10 runs on nine hits with two errors, while tallying seven runs in the third and three in the seventh.

“We were on the pitchers,” Anderson said. “We hit on them tremendously. But there is a reason why they are defending champions. But, a positive is that we have played really well against some of the best competition this game has to offer.”

What spectators saw in the next game of the double-header was things starting to click for the Bearcats.

Northwest put up three runs in

the first and three runs in the third to take an early 6.3 advantage over the Mavericks. The potential for a stunning and early season defining win was within reach. Unfortunately, Minnesota State proved why they are one of the best teams in the country by scoring three more runs in the sixth and then one in extra innings to seal the deal and obtain the win.

Northwest had 19 hits in the two combined games and a mea-

sly five errors.  
The Bearcats three win and five loss start isn’t an accurate representation of the teams’ performance through the first stretch of the season.

“We have been in tough games and playing against really tough teams,” graduate assistant Stephanie Bagwell said. “We have been competitive in them and have had real opportunities to win these games, and they just don’t fall our way. We are excited to see where we go from here, knowing that things are going to clean up and start to go our way.”

The weather of Maryville, Missouri, in 2018 has really affected not only softball, but many of the spring sports that have a necessity to practice outside.

“We are making a ton of team mistakes that being outside really would give us a chance to grab and fix,” Anderson said. “We have had certain situations in games that we have had to talk about because we haven’t had a chance to go over them in practice. Fundamental things.”

The Bearcats are on idle this week and it will give them a chance to prepare for the upcoming road stretch in Joplin, Missouri.

#### NEXT GAME

**Northwest vs Sioux Falls**  
**Joplin, MO**  
March 3 @ 2:00 p.m.

# First season under Koster shows positive results

**TRENT SPINNER**  
Chief Reporter | @TrentSpinner

As Maryville wrestling comes to a close, so does coach Kody Koster’s first impactful year on the program.

New atmospheres are meant to change perspectives and promote learning; for the Spoofhounds, this season was a chance to truly do that.

Koster was an out-of-town commuter trying to put his stamp on the Spoofhound wrestling program, wrestling his own way through a long drive between work in Targio and Maryville. After this coach battled every single day to get to practice on time, now he can finally say that year number one was a success.

“It definitely was a great first year, especially with having an assistant coach, with having to work outside of town and just communicating if I am running late,” Koster said. “Having a great group of kids, it definitely surpassed my expectations getting four to state.”

Postseason wrestling is a heritage of success for the Spoofhounds. After sending three participants to the state tournament a year prior, Koster was able to one up that total, sending four from his group.

Freshman Kade Wilmes and senior Jacob Search both failed to secure a spot in the second day of the state tournament. Freshman Connor Weiss and senior Jackson Sanders were able to grab a spot in the second day, after winning

matches on the first, but fell before reaching the championship day of the tournament.

Though the expectations of the wrestlers were higher, Koster could not be prouder of the year they had.

“Through the year, just seeing the kids improve slowly on the wrestling skills just help me realize that I am doing the right thing,” Koster said. “Very proud of all of them.”

Towards the front of the group that was sent into state was Sanders, a district champion and an all-around leader to his teammates. Though he planned on accomplishing more, he will never forget his final experience on a wrestling mat and what it taught him.

“The overall experience of state was the best I’ve had so far. I didn’t reach my goals, but by far the best experience yet,” Sanders said. “Wrestling has taught me no matter how hard things get, I can get through them, and to always get back up when life knocks you down.”

Ever since he arrived in the Maryville wrestling room, Koster’s smile and positive attitude was quickly able to rub off on the guys.

“My favorite thing Kody taught me was the ‘k roll,’ it was almost an all-year joke,” Weiss said laughing. “It was a really rare move, that most likely didn’t have a chance of being hit.”

With so much passion, Koster built relationships with each individual that will last for years to come. Along with that comes the



JON DYKSTRA | THE MARYVILLE FORUM

Maryville freshman Connor Weiss attempts to takedown St. James’ Thomas Henderson at Saturday’s Missouri State Championships in Columbia.

favorite moments that each wrestler experienced throughout their season.

Now that the season is over though, Koster instilled that will in some of the younger guys to battle back and become better. He knows many of these guys are something special, calling them ‘four-year qualifiers’ or ‘guys that will be medaling in a couple of years.’

As Koster reflected upon the season, he could not help but smile, and shine light on his favorite moments of the year.

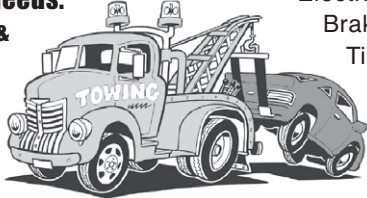
“My favorite part is the practice room,” Koster said. “Seeing the kids in this atmosphere, some kids that might be a little quiet in

school come out and show their true personalities, and just getting to meet those kids in a one-on-one setting is just awesome.”

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**Meeting: Wednesday Feb. 28 – 7:00pm.** Conference room on top floor of Lamkin Gym.

**Contact:** Scott Lorek, Email: [slorek@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:slorek@nwmissouri.edu)  
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# Northwest keeps postseason hopes alive

JOSH REXROAT

Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

After a rare win on senior day, the Northwest women aim for a possible MIAA Tournament bid.



Northwest women’s basketball (4-21, 3-14 MIAA) finished its last home stretch strong Saturday, Feb. 17. The women honored two seniors for senior night, Saturday, when they hosted Missouri Southern (11-14, 8-10 MIAA).

In a nail-biter, the women pulled off the upset 79-73. The victory kept the team’s MIAA tournament hopes alive.

“I think Saturday was a huge win,” freshman guard Kylie Coleman said. “It’s really a confidence booster whenever we get a win like that. Knowing that we can have a shot at the conference tournament is always in the back of our heads.”

The Bearcats took down Missouri Southern after a tough loss to Pittsburg State Thursday, Feb. 15. The Bearcats put up a good fight against the MIAA second place Gorillas, but ultimately fell short 73-62.

With the upset victory against Missouri Southern, the Bearcats still keep their MIAA Tournament goal in sight.

“It’s really just one day at a time,” assistant coach Heather Howard said. “We just have to come in and work like we have all season and put together a good week of practice and focus on Lindenwood because we can only control what we can control.”

The postseason hope for the Northwest women rests on these

NEXT GAMES
<b>Northwest @ Lindenwood</b> Feb. 22 @ 5:30 p.m.
<b>Northwest @ Lincoln</b> Feb. 24 @ 3:30 p.m.

following scenarios as the Bearcats sit 13th in the conference.

If the Bearcats want to make the tournament, they will need some help from their division rival.

Assuming the Bearcats win their final two games against Lindenwood (13-12, 6-11 MIAA) and Lincoln (3-22, 0-17 MIAA) and Missouri Western loses one of their final two games, the Bearcats are in.

The Bearcats must surpass Missouri Western in these next two games to take the final spot in the tournament.

In case the Bearcats lose one of their games, Missouri Western will need to lose both of their games for the Bearcats to make the tournament.

The Bearcats have to win at least one of their final two games to keep their tournament dreams a reality.

“We don’t know what is going to happen,” Howard said. “All we can do is play our hardest and really just leave it all out there for each other and their teammates. What happens, happens.”

For these final two games, the Bearcats will play some familiar faces.

Up first Thursday, Feb. 22, the Bearcats travel to Lindenwood. The Bearcats took on the Lions earlier this month in Bearcat Arena and had a tough time getting anything going.



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior Tanya Meyer produced 19 points in Saturday’s victory over Missouri Southern, also her final game in Bearcat Arena.

The Bearcats could not get anything rolling in the first half and ultimately fell 84-56.

“Last time we played Lindenwood, they had a lot of second chance opportunities with all of the offensive rebounds they got,” senior forward Tanya Myers said. “And with them being one of the top teams in the conference for offensive rebounds, we just have to make sure that we limit those opportunities for them by boxing them out, and not letting them get those offensive rebounds.”

The Bearcats final game of

the season is against Lincoln. The Bearcats took on Lincoln Feb. 1 and nearly escaped with a victory, winning 61-60.

“That was a tough game,” Coleman said. “We know we are capable of winning because we beat them already, but we know nothing is going to be easy, especially playing at their place.”

The Bearcats will need to win one of these games to stay alive in the MIAA Tournament hunt.

Meanwhile, Missouri Western will have to give the Bearcats some help. The Griffins will take

on both Lincoln and Lindenwood as well for their final two games.

The Griffins took down Lincoln earlier this month at home but lost to Lindenwood earlier that week.

If the Griffins keep this pattern, the Bearcats will have to win out to make the tournament.

“I think we have improved greatly,” Coleman said. “The start of the season wasn’t what we wanted at all, but lately, in the last half of the season, we’ve grown within practice within games... it just shows that we growing a lot.”

# Girls advance to district semifinals



TUCKER FRANKLIN | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville girls basketball moved on from the first round of the Class 3 District 16 tournament for the first time under Quentin Albrecht Feb. 22.

TUCKER FRANKLIN

Chief Reporter | @THEREAL\_tuckerf

Maryville girls basketball finds itself in the second round of the district tournament for the first time in coach Quentin Albrecht’s tenure.



After a thrilling 30-28 win over Brookfield Feb. 19, the Hounds will face Hamilton on its home court.

The Spoofhounds (11-13) controlled the pace as well as most of the game. Both teams started slow on President’s Day as the two squads only combined for six points in the first quarter. After a better scoring second quarter, Maryville took a 14-9 lead into the locker room.

“It was closely contested, which we knew it would be coming in,” Albrecht said. “We expected it to be a 10-point game one way or the other.”

Albrecht’s expectations proved to be true. The Spoofhounds took a four-point lead into the final quarter of play, but watched it disappear in a matter of five minutes.

Then the Serena Sundell show took center stage. The star freshman drained a 3-pointer with less than a minute and a half remaining in the game to knot things up. In the final moments of the game, fans around the gymnasium could hear Albrecht echoing voice encouraging his group to “have fun.”

“I don’t know if it was fun, it was a little nerve racking there at the end, but if you can’t have fun

while you play the game then you probably ought not play,” Albrecht said. “We’re a little under the weather right now and I was proud of the girls the way they were able to overcome some obstacles and pull out a win.”

After a defensive stop and a timeout, Sundell was fouled before she shot and with one second to go, Sundell went to the charity stripe for a one and one, and a chance to win the game.

She hit both. Like a shark tasting blood, Sundell said her plan down the stretch was to attack the Bulldogs defense by any means possible.

“I just wanted to be aggressive,” Sundell said. “I knew they were in the bonus so I tried to draw a foul and knock down both free throws.”

This isn’t the first time Sundell has been at the line with the game at her hands. A few weeks ago the freshman hit four-straight free throws to beat district opponent East Buchanan. When it comes to the clutch department, Sundell explained it all goes back to the basics.

“I said earlier that I knew I could do it, I knew it was possible,” Sundell said. “I just have to think back to mechanics, envisioning myself making it, confidence and see it go through the net.”

Maryville is no stranger to close games as nine of the Spoofhounds 24 games this season have been decided by five points or less. Out of the 13 Maryville losses, five of them were by less than

NEXT GAME
<b>Maryville @ Penney High School</b> Feb. 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

five points.

With the game on the line, Albrecht had all the confidence in his freshman point guard as she toed the line for what proved to be the final shots of the game. This year Sundell has been an 80 percent free throw shooter and there was no one better for the moment.

As woman of few words, Sundell described moving on to the second round of district play in two words, “It’s exciting.” Her coach, on the other hand, had more to say.

“None of these girls have won a district game so they’re excited about that,” Albrecht said. “We talked to them and said half of the teams in Class 3 are turning in their uniforms tomorrow and we’re a part of the half that’s not.”

Maryville now embarks on new territory and sets its sights on the hosts of the tournament. The Spoofhounds lost to Hamilton by four when they played in Maryville Jan. 16 by a score of 64-60. Sundell said in few words, this time will be different.

“Hamilton is a big game,” Sundell said. “I think we can take them.”

## NW MEN’S BASKETBALL

### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
NORTHWEST-Y.....	22-3	14-3
Washburn-Y.....	19-7	13-4
Missouri Southern-Y.....	18-8	13-4
Central Missouri-X.....	19-7	11-6
Central Oklahoma-X.....	17-9	10-7
Fort Hays State-X.....	16-10	9-8
Lincoln-X.....	15-11	9-8
Nebraska Kearney-X.....	13-13	9-8
Pittsburg State-X.....	15-11	8-9
Lindenwood-X.....	15-11	7-10
Southwest Baptist-X.....	12-14	6-11
Emporia State.....	9-17	4-13
Northeastern State.....	7-19	3-14
Missouri Western.....	5-19	3-14

X- Clinched spot MIAA tournament

Y-Clinched bye to Kansas City

## NW WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Central Missouri-Y.....	22-2	16-1
Pittsburg State-Y.....	21-5	14-3
Fort Hays State-X.....	21-5	12-5
Nebraska Kearney-X.....	20-5	12-5
Central Oklahoma-X.....	20-6	11-6
Emporia State-X.....	16-8	11-6
Washburn-X.....	18-8	10-7
Missouri Southern-X.....	11-14	8-9
Southwest Baptist-X.....	15-11	7-10
Lindenwood-X.....	13-12	6-11
Northeastern State-X.....	9-15	5-12
Missouri Western.....	11-15	4-13
NORTHWEST.....	4-21	3-13
Lincoln.....	3-22	0-17

X- Clinched spot MIAA tournament

Y-Clinched bye to Kansas City

## NW BASEBALL

### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Missouri Southern.....	7-2	0-0
Central Missouri.....	6-2	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	7-3	0-0
Lindenwood.....	7-3	0-0
Northeastern State.....	6-3	0-0
Emporia State.....	6-4	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	6-4	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	5-4	0-0
Missouri Western.....	5-4	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	5-6	0-0
Washburn.....	4-5	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	3-6	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	3-7	0-0

## NW SOFTBALL

### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Washburn.....	7-2	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	7-4	0-0
Lindenwood.....	1-1	0-0
Northeastern State.....	5-5	0-0
Emporia State.....	6-7	0-0
Missouri Western.....	3-4	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	3-5	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	3-5	0-0
Central Missouri.....	4-8	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	4-8	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	2-7	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-4	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	1-7	0-0
Lincoln.....	0-6	0-0



# ‘It’s like a dream’ Kempf embraces opportunities with ESPN

JOSEPH ANDREWS

Asst. Sports Editor | @Joe\_Andrews15

Growing up in St. Joseph, Missouri, Chuckie Kempf was destined to find a place within the sports industry.

His father played collegiate baseball. His sister and aunt played collegiate softball. He even spent time competing as a Golden Eagle at Bishop LeBlond High School.

“You kind of grow up and have no idea what you want to do,” Chuckie Kempf said. “Obviously, my life has been centered a lot around sports, so I tried to find something I could do within sports.”

Chuckie Kempf found his calling in sports as a student within the School of Communication and Mass Media at Northwest Missouri State University.

A little over two years following graduation, Chuckie Kempf is taking advantage of every opportunity and connection he has.

“It kind of sounds cliché, but it’s like a dream,” Chuckie Kempf said. “It’s unbelievable.”

Chuckie Kempf’s voice has been heard on several ESPN college basketball broadcasts this season. His work with ESPN has varied from the NCAA Division II Showcase to Big 12 college basketball.

This past weekend, he was in Waco, Texas, as Baylor men’s basketball snuck past No. 6 Texas Tech 59-57 on ESPNU.

“It has been an unreal experience,” Chuckie Kempf said. “It definitely does not feel like work. I don’t think it ever will. I’m certain it won’t.”

Chuckie Kempf experienced the ESPN productions a few times in the past with the help of his aunt, Cheri Kempf. She has been a softball analyst since 2001.

Chuckie Kempf had the chance to fly out to game sites with her on occasion. Sometimes, he sat in the booth with her. Other times, he sat in the production truck.

also eventually joined KNWT’s Bearcat Update, hosting alongside Chris Roush.

“They’ve got stuff that other Division II schools and a lot of Division I schools would really love to have,” Chuckie Kempf said.

During Chuckie Kempf’s sophomore year, Roush introduced him to former KQ2 sports director Matt Tritten on the sideline of a Northwest football game.

The two knew of each other through prior interactions, during Chuckie Kempf’s athletic career at Bishop LeBlond.

“He was a really nice kid that was really driven,” Tritten said. “You could tell he had a lot of potential. I wanted to do everything I could to help him get active in the St. Joseph community covering sports.”

Alongside Roush, Chuckie Kempf ended up joining Tritten and former KQ2 sports reporter Justin Sampson as an intern.

Sampson eventually departed KQ2, leaving a sports reporter position open. Chuckie Kempf was eventually hired to fill the position, while still obtaining an education.

“He (Tritten) knew it was going to be a little bit tougher for him,” Chuckie Kempf said. “But he said if you can do it, you’re good. That led to a job and some really good experiences.”

Tritten introduced Chuckie Kempf to 680 KFEQ and ESPN 1550 sports director Dave Riggert along the way.

Similar to Tritten, Riggert knew of Chuckie Kempf through coverage of Bishop LeBlond athletics. Riggert eventually needed help with St. Joseph area high school coverage and inquired Chucky Kempf about the opportunity.

“I knew he had a really good career within this business from my first interaction with him,” Riggert said.

Chuckie Kempf eventually



SUBMITTED

Northwest graduate Chuckie Kempf (left) alongside Bryndon Manzer (right) following their call at Tulsa University earlier this season. Kempf does freelance play-by-play for ESPN broadcasts.

see the way he prepares and goes about his business.”

Chuckie Kempf stepped away from joining Riggert on a game-to-game basis following the 2017 football season, right as his opportunities with ESPN started to pick up.

“If you’re good enough, like he is, all of a sudden your career can really take off,” Riggert said. “He was able to take his career to whatever it took to get to that level.”

Chuckie Kempf has also participated in several other play-by-play opportunities as a freelancer. In between opportunities, he works part time at a bank.

He hopes to eventually turn his passion into a full-time career.

“It’s been really exciting,” Chuckie Kempf said. “Hopefully, that can be full time sooner, rather than later.”

“If you’re good enough like he is, all of a sudden your career can really take off.”

-Dave Riggert, KFEQ

“To see how much fun she had doing it, to see the people she got to work with and be around, was very appealing,” Chuckie Kempf said.

Chuckie Kempf chose to pursue an education at Northwest to chase the dream of finding himself in his aunt’s position one day.

He dove into the field joining the X106.7 sports staff, during his second semester at Northwest. He

left KQ2, remaining in connection with Riggert for play-by-play and color commentator opportunities.

Notably, Chuckie Kempf has been heard alongside Riggert for basketball and football coverage on the Griffon Sports Network as a color analyst.

“He gave me a lot of opportunities,” Chuckie Kempf said. “Not just to call games on my own, but also to work alongside him, and



SUBMITTED

Northwest Missouri State alumni Chuckie Kempf (right) worked alongside Lance Blanks (left) at an Iowa State University basketball game earlier this season.



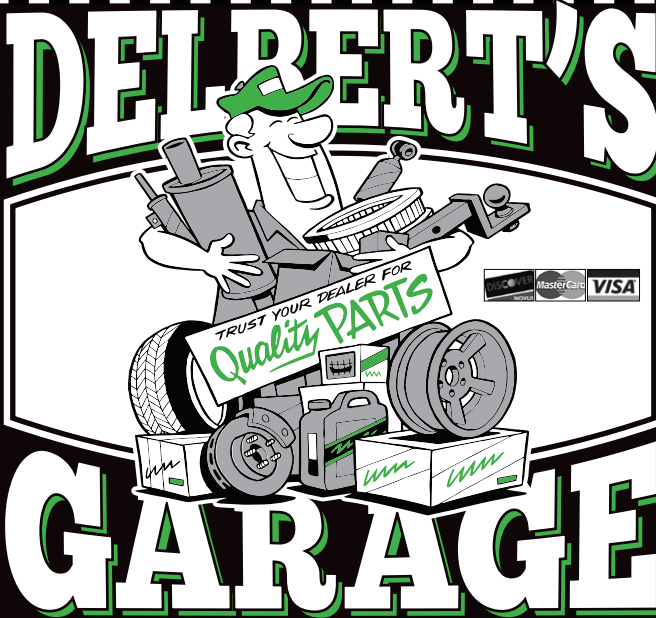
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# Lions continue to tame Bearcats

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Northwest men’s basketball suffered a blow last weekend at the hands of a familiar foe in Missouri Southern.



Now, the Bearcats (22-3, 14-3 MIAA) are focused on rebounding from the loss for their last week of regular season games.

Northwest will look to get back on track this Thursday, Feb. 22, on the road against Lindenwood (15-11, 7-10 MIAA). After Saturday’s tough loss, the Bearcats hit the reset button in practice this week in an effort to recapture their early-season flow.

“We had a good practice,” coach Ben McCollum said. “We did some things that we didn’t do in the game. It was a good practice, getting our rhythm back and getting our flow back. It’s not that we need to reinvent the wheel, it’s just, we need to do what we’re supposed to do; that’s pretty much it.”

Northwest only has two games remaining on its regular season schedule, but still control its own fate in the MIAA, following the loss to Missouri Southern.

Winning both games would guarantee the Bearcats their fifth consecutive MIAA Conference Championship.

“I hope so,” McCollum said. “I think that’ll help some of our guys, the seniors that have won titles and conference championships, and what not to focus and go get one (a win), because you can win it. You win one (game), you tie (for the MIAA title) for sure, you win two, you win it outright, so you



Senior guard Justin Pitts racked up 13 points in the final minutes of Saturday’s 73-70 loss to Missouri Southern.

DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

still control your own destiny.”

As far as a mindset goes, the Bearcats are focused on Lindenwood. In their first matchup earlier this month, the Bearcats dominated the Lions 78-58 in Bearcat Arena. Northwest is the superior

team on all fronts, but McCollum and company aren’t taking the Lions lightly.

“Our objective is to play on Thursday night, and play as good as we possibly can,” McCollum said. “They’re (Lindenwood)

good offensively. They’re a motion team, so they move around a bunch, (they) got a lot of guards. Defensively, they’ll play whatever defense they think will work. It’s all very, very random, based on what they think we can’t handle,

so we have to be ready for that. It’s an MIAA road game; it’s going to be tough.”

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

# Behind the scenes: Bobby provides extra crowd spark

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

For years, Bobby the Bearcat has brought joy to fans and spectators at Northwest sporting events, keeping spirits high through the good times and the bad. It takes a special sort of vigor to suit-up as Bobby day in and day out.



Some may assume that the identity of Bobby the Bearcat is meant to be a secret, but the men behind the mask aren’t concerned with keeping it.

Chris Lawson is the longest-tenured Bobby-portrayer at Northwest, now nearly complete with his third full year as the mascot. Garrison Whitney was brought on last fall to help ease Lawson’s workload.

“I’m a junior, so I’ve been Bobby since freshman year,” Lawson said. “I brought Garrison on this season. My first year, we had two Bobby’s, and last year it was only me. This year, we brought Garrison on to split everything up.”

Lawson initially tried to keep his identity concealed, but just hours into his tenure as Bobby, he realized that doing so would be impossible.

“The first day, when I got it, I didn’t tell anyone,” Lawson said. “My best friend, who was my roommate at the time, asked me if I wanted to go to the (football) game (that night), and I said ‘Oh, I’m not feeling too good, I’m sick.’”

“I was at the game as Bobby, and he was at the game but he thought I was in our room. I thought, ‘there’s no way I can



Chris Lawson and Garrison Whitney are two of the personalities that identify as the beloved Bobby the Bearcat this year.

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keep this (a secret) forever.” Whitney said, who has only been Bobby since last fall, has man-

aged to keep his identity slightly more unknown so far, though he didn’t mind his name being pub-

lished as Bobby the Bearcat.

“I mean, I feel like I should keep it under wraps, but if people ask me, I tell them,” Whitney said. “Generally, a lot of people already know. It doesn’t really matter if it’s published or not.”

The two mascots each have their own favorite parts of being Bobby, but they agreed that the best part of putting on the suit is witnessing firsthand the joy it can bring to people.

Even when the Bearcats are down, Bobby is capable of lifting people up.

“My favorite part is just making people laugh and seeing people smile,” Whitney said. “You can just do the simplest thing and make kids happy or old people laugh.”

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# In-depth statistics show promise for Bearcat baseball pitching staff

TRENT SPINNER  
Chief Reporter | @TrentSpinner

Northwest baseball turned from an icy skid to fiery fundamentals, as the Bearcats pitched and framed their way to a series win.



The Bearcats (3-6) boasted strengths in all of the key categories of baseball against non-conference opponent Cameron University (7-3) to take two of three in the series.

Through the rough start that Northwest faced, one characteristic remained supreme. Starting pitching for the Bearcats has been something that has refused to shy away from competition.

With dynamic pitching, it seems easy to praise the pitchers and their execution skills, but without the right sort of guidance, execution seems meaningless.

When the Bearcat pitchers put their skills to work, there is more to it than just figuring out the pitch on the spot. Coach Darin Loe provides just that, as he calls the games the way he sees them.

“When I call pitches, number

one, we always try to pitch to the pitcher’s strengths,” Loe said. “I just try to put myself in a hitter’s mindset for what I am looking for, and we try to throw the opposite.”

With the choice of pitch being an important aspect to decode a hitter’s strategy, hitting the marks is a useful skill set only a few holds. One of the best at hitting his stride in the pitcher’s game is senior Joseph Hietpas.

Hietpas performs as Northwest’s ace with passion and precision, giving the Bearcats the chance to win every game he pitches.

Hietpas opened up the series for the Bearcats against Cameron in the first game of a doubleheader. The rules of a doubleheader conclude that the first game is played with only seven innings, and the second one is a normal length.

Hietpas ended the game with a complete game shutout, while raking up eight strikeouts and not allowing a single walk in a 3-0 victory. Hietpas did this with dominance as he accumulated a 75 percent first-pitch strike percentage and only allowed three hard-hit

NEXT GAME
<b>Northwest @ Emporia State</b> Feb. 24-26 @ 3 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

balls throughout.

“In Joe’s first outing, he just threw a lot of strikes,” Loe said. “A lot of first pitch strikes, and at the end of the day, that is why he was successful.”

Senior Brad Roberts took control is own way in the second game, allowing three runs in the six innings he pitched. The offense rallied around him to give the Bearcats a sweep on the doubleheader Saturday with a 6-3 win.

Another drastically important part for the process to come full circle is the ability to perform in the catcher’s position. From framing the pitches in the strike zone to relaying the calls forward, the catcher knows his importance in the system.

“Coach Loe relays the pitches to the catcher, they have the opportunity to shake it off if they want

to, but they have full trust in coach Loe,” junior Jay Hrdlicka said. “A lot of the times the first game of the weekend is kinda where he gets a feel for the other teams hitters and try to expose those the best we can.”

Through this season, the Bearcats have constantly been on the road competing, and with the newest addition of inclement weather, that does not seem to be changing. Northwest’s MIAA opener/home opener against Emporia State University has been moved to Emporia, Kansas, leav-

ing the Bearcats with a Saturday, Sunday, Monday series compared to the normal weekend series.

Northwest’s new date for the home opener will be March 9 against Northeastern State University.

“We talk a lot about as a team that you have to be comfortable being uncomfortable,” Loe said. “In the sport of baseball, you have to be flexible, there is just so many unknowns with weather, with length of innings, with rescheduling and things like that.”

## NEWS BRIEF

### MSHSAA Class 3 District 16 Tournament sees schedule change due to weather

The Maryville (19-4) boys basketball game against Brookfield (2-21) was postponed to Wednesday due to weather conditions. The winner of the game will go on to play the winner of East Buchanan and Lathrop in the semifinals of districts Friday 7:30. Go to nwmissourinews.com to see the results of the game and the rest of the team’s postseason results.

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